

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**JULY 24, 2006**

## **COLLINSVILLE MAN CONVICTED OF DRUG AND GUN CHARGES**

RANDY G. MASSEY, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that on July 19, 2006, a jury sitting in the United States District Court in East St. Louis, found **AJA BLOUNT**, age 27, of Collinsville, Illinois, guilty of three charges. **BLOUNT** was convicted of possession with intent to distribute approximately 46 grams of crack cocaine; being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm; and possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime. In addition to the crack cocaine seized in the this case, law enforcement seized a 9 millimeter handgun.

The evidence for the convictions was obtained in an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Collinsville Police Department, and the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andy Simonson and Mark Niemeyer.